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Message Text

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14-L
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 INR-07 CIAE-00 PM-04 SAM-01

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7730
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1249

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NL, SP
SUBJECT: AREILZA'S VISIT TO THE HAGUE

REF: MADRID 1457

1. MFA EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL CONFIRMS REPORT IN REFTEL REGARDING ATMOSPHERICS OF AREILZA VISIT TO THE HAGUE, TERMING IT "A GREAT SUCCESS." BASIC POINT FONMIN AREILZA WANTED TO MAKE WERE ALREADY WELL KNOWN AS A RESULT OF HIS VISITS TO OTHER EC CAPITALS, AND DUTCH HEARD NOTHING PARTICULARLY NEW, BUT FONMIN VAN DER STOEL AND OTHER OFFICIALS WERE IMPRESSED BY HIS SIN-
CERITY AND MANNER. GON POLICY ON SPAIN WAS NOT CHANGED, BUT VAN DER STOEL DID ACKNOWLEDGE, BOTH PUBLICLY AT PRESS CON-
FERENCE AND PRIVATELY IN MEETINGS WITH SPANIARDS, THAT EXPLANA-
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TIONS OF SPANISH REFORM PROPOSALS ADDED TO HIS CONVICTION

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THAT MOVES WHICH WERE UNDERWAY "COULD LEAD TO DEMOCRATIZATION."

2. AREILZA TOLD VAN DER STOEL THAT A REFERENDUM ON CHANGING CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR A DIRECTLY ELECTED PARLIAMENT WOULD BE HELD IN JULY 1976 AND WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY GENERAL ELECTIONS IN MARCH. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, HE SAID THAT ELECTIONS WOULD BE OPEN TO ALL, BUT THAT "WE ARE GOING TO ABOLISH ALL PARTIES THAT ARE BOUND TO A TOTALI-TARIAN PHILOSOPHY OF POLITICAL LIFE." REFORM OF THE SPANISH SYNDICALIST SYSTEM WOULD ALSO BE UNDERTAKEN, BUT THERE WAS NO CONSENSUS ON HOW THIS SHOULD BE ACHIEVED. HE TOLD FONMIN THAT THE SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS PREFERRED A SINGLE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, BUT THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WOULD PROBABLY WANT MORE THAN ONE MOVEMENT.

3. STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE SPAIN PLACES ON WESTERN EUROPEAN SYMPATHY FOR PATH IT IS FOLLOWING, AREILZA SAID GOS NEEDS TO HEAR PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT. NOT SURPRISINGLY, DUTCH FONMIN REPLIED THAT SPAIN SHOULD NOT EXPECT PUBLIC APPLAUSE PRIOR TO ACHIEVEMENT OF CONCRETE DEMOCRATIC RESULTS. AREILZA SEEMED SATISFIED WITH VAN DER STOEL'S REMARK THAT "MY GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT OPPOSE EVENTUAL EC MEMBERSHIP" FOR SPAIN IF DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENTS PROCEED.

4. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, NATO DID NOT COME UP IN SESSIONS THAT HE ATTENDED, ALTHOUGH IT COULD HAVE IN ONE-HOUR PRIVATE TALK WITH VAN DER STOEL. THERE WERE BRIEF DISCUSSIONS ON A NUMBER OF OTHER SUBJECTS--AREILZA SAID HE EXPECTED ALGERIA TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH SPAIN, MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA OVER SAHARA; THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF SPAIN RECOGNIZING THE PLO; AND THE STATUS OF EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN OF SPANISH GUEST-WORKERS IN HOLLAND WAS DISCUSSED.
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